

Future Vision of Used Fuel Storage: "Back-End Friendly Fuel Designs and Holistic Safety Security Interface"

Michael V. McMahon – Senior Vice President, AREVA TN Americas Ron Land – Senior Vice President, AREVA Fuel Regulatory Information Conference March 13, 2014



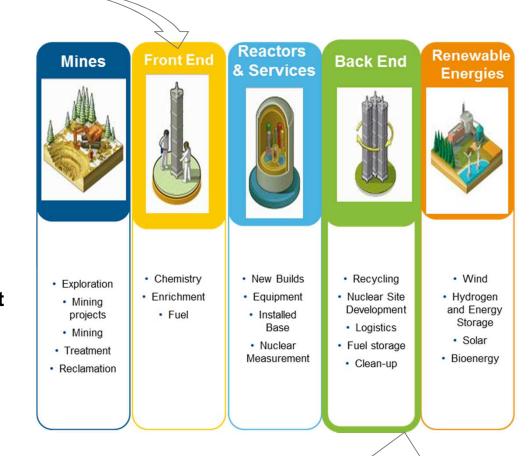
AREVA Background

FUEL

- In Front End Business Group of AREVA
- Worldwide footprint: 3 fuel assembly manufacturing facilities plus JV's

AREVA:

- In the Back End Business Group of AREVA
- Established in 1965 to transport nuclear materials in the U.S.
- Dry storage since 1985
- Acquired NUHOMS^{®*} in 1998
- Market leader in dry fuel storage (nearly 900 systems loaded in USA)



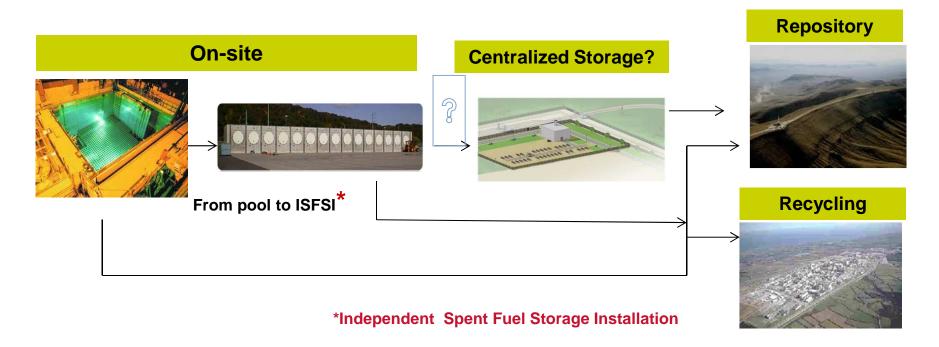
*Transnuclear Inc.





Used Fuel Management: Where are we today?

Future Vision – Challenges Ahead





Complexity from Not knowing When and Where



Diverse Challenges Driving Diverse Needs

- ► Extended Dry storage (100? 150? Years) drives Aging Management needs:
 - High Burn-up fuel behavior
 - Storage system degradation and confinement
- Additional Early Plant Shutdowns?
- ► Final and Sustainable Disposal Options ... Yucca Mountain?
- Need for Transportation Technologies and Solutions





From the Front End Design Perspective

How can we implement a back-end friendly fuel design and holistic safety and security interface?





Back End Friendly Design

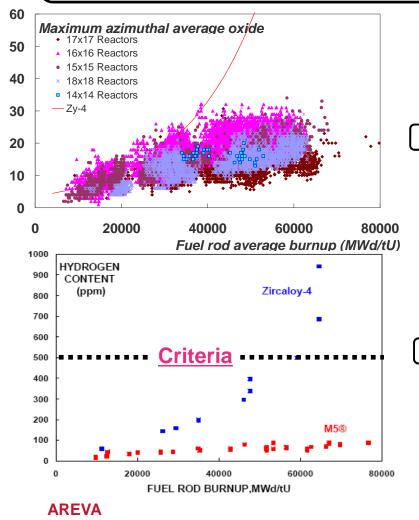
Two Main Vectors:

- Cladding Properties Ensuring Long Term Integrity
- Preventing Failed Fuel Rods



M5®: A Breakthrough Regarding Corrosion and Hydriding in the Most Extreme PWR Operating Conditions

Huge Implementation on the Worldwide PWR Market for all F.A Designs ~ 5 million fuel rods in 94 PWRs up to 80GWd/tU



Impressive corrosion resistance :

- Consistent worldwide and not exceeding 40µm
- Well Suited for the Continuing Evolution of PWR Operating Conditions
 - High Lithium regime up to at least 5ppm
 - Zn injection in the range 5 to 10ppb

An extremely low hydrogen uptake:

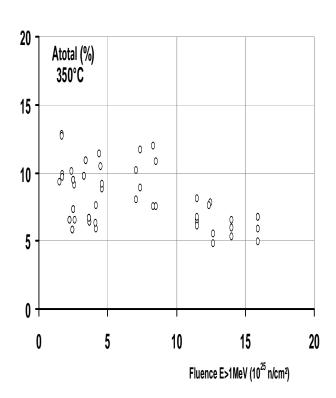
- Lower than 100ppm:
 - Allowing plant flexibility and valuable safety margins
 - High ductility even at high fluence





M5®: Well Suited for Long Term Storage

► High ductility even at high fluence



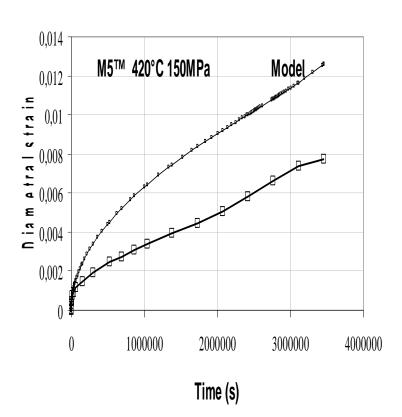
- Greater than 5% for M5®
- Over the 1 to 1.5~% for old Zr alloys as Zircaloy-4 with [H]_{in-service} ~600ppm



M5®: Well Suited for Long Term Storage (Cont'd)



▶ Suitable for long term storage:



- Robust and bounding long term creep law was identified in large range:
 - T (320 to 470° C)
 - σ (60 to 260MPa)
- Moreover under typical decrease of the storage temperature vs. time:
 - The natural decrease of the internal rod pressure will strongly reduced the clad creep deformation and results in additional margin
 - Extra margins on rupture deformation will be induced by annealing of the irradiation defects





Preventing Fuel Rod Failures



Designs to Resist Grid-to-Rod Fretting

- Improved Pellet Quality Standard
- CRUD Level IV Modeling
- Resistance to Fuel Assembly In-Reactor Deformation
- Resistance to Channel Bow
- Spacer Shadow Corrosion Prevention





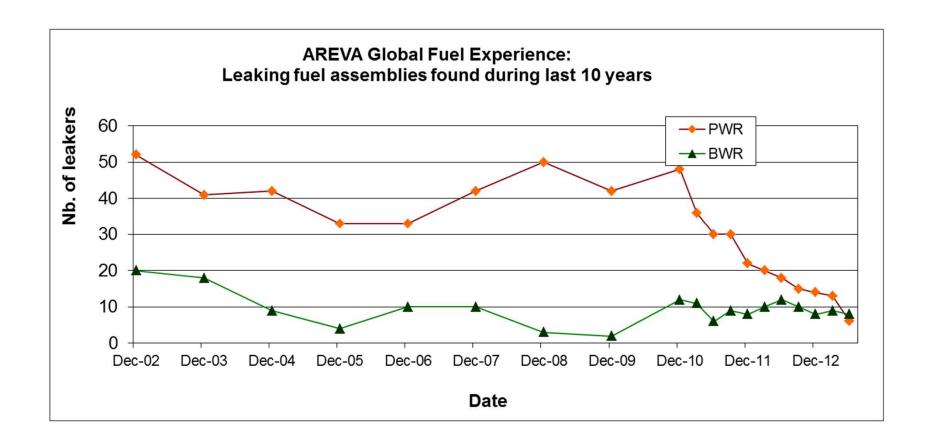
- Human Performance Tools
- Lean 6 Sigma
- Corrective Action Program



Target: Zero Failures in Reactors













- ► Aging Management
- Integrated Triple Purpose Design
- Design Beyond a Century







- Monitoring of existing deployed systems
 - Concrete monitoring and maintenance is straightforward
 - Need the tools to inspect canister for stress corrosion cracking in Chloride Induced Stress Corrosion Cracking environments
 - AREVA pioneered tools for inspection of surface chemistry; analysis has demonstrated the effectiveness of the sampling at Calvert Cliffs
 - Future emphasis on remote-weld inspection techniques that are more sensitive than visual
 - AREVA has initiated a project with AREVA's NDE and robotics experts to develop the concept for such a system
 - AREVA has developed a conceptual design to perform inspection for examining and cleaning canisters as they are being withdrawn into a transfer cask





- Depending on environment (marine for example), aging of dry storage systems must be periodically monitored to ensure continuous safety
- High burnup fuel behavior over longer time requires additional data:
 - In the U.S., the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stated that retrievability of used nuclear fuel (UNF) can occur for 20 years for high burn-up fuels (more than 45 GWd/tU)
 - Beyond these values, the demonstration will rely on R&D that is being defined and will be performed







Future Systems: Integrated Approach

- ► Triple Purpose System:
 - Interim Storage
 - Transportation
 - Final repository storage



Reduce reconditioning/repackaging activities





TAD Proof of Concept Design to DOE

- ► TN TAD System Components
- TN21P and TN44B Canisters
- Vertical or horizontal orientation
- Disposal in horizontal orientation
- **TN TAD Transportation Overpack**
- Lengthened version of NUHOMS®* MP197 transport cask
- Horizontal transport of TN21P and TN44B Canisters
- Vertical aging of TN21P and TN44B Canisters



^{**}Horizontal Storage Module





TN21P TAD Canister

HSM** for Reactor Site Storage of TAD Canisters





Future Systems: Design Beyond a Century

- More flexibility is needed (40 years not enough)
- ► Extension of interim storage period using a more conservative analysis and design approach:
 - Stress corrosion cracking
 - Environmental, extreme weather effects
 - Malevolent acts
 - Protection of people: Dose rates
 - Outside/Inside Real Time Monitoring



Summary

forward-looking energ

- "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" B. Franklin
- AREVA is proactive!
- AREVA is deploying and developing advanced technologies for sustainable used fuel management solutions
 - Advanced fuel cladding and robust designs for failure-free fuel
 - Advanced, high capacity, high burn-up dry fuel storage systems
 - Aging management inspection techniques and analyses
 - World-leading UNF transportation experience and technologies
 - Repository-ready transportation and disposal packages
 - Recycling
- Interim Storage provides the "surge capacity" essential to any robust and sustainable used fuel management program
- A proactive approach to safety and security will continue to ensure effective management of risks and control of costs even as storage times are extended

